



Pandora's Star

By Peter F. Hamilton

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In AD 2329, humanity has colonised over four hundred planets, all of them interlinked by wormholes. With Earth at its centre, the Intersolar Commonwealth now occupies a sphere of space approximately four hundred light years across. When an astronomer on the outermost world of Gralmond, observes a star 2000 light years distant - and then a neighbouring one - vanish, it is time for the Commonwealth to discover what happened to them. For what if their disappearance indicates some kind of galactic conflict? Since a conventional wormhole cannot be used to reach these vanished stars, for the first time humans need to build a faster-than-light starship, the Second Chance. But it arrives to find each 'vanished' star encased in a giant force field -- and within one of them resides a massive alien civilisation.

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Pandora's Star By Peter F. Hamilton Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Hamilton's exhilarating new opus proves that "intelligent space opera" isn't an oxymoron. By the 24th century, the vast human Commonwealth has spread from Earth via artificial wormholes. Various benign or seemingly indifferent alien races have been encountered during exploration of new planets, but an astronomer sparks curiosity by announcing that a pair of stars is enclosed by a mysterious energy barrier. [...] The author deftly juggles many characters in multiple plot lines, sometimes slowing down the action briefly, at other times racing forward. Revelations late in the book will have readers scurrying back to earlier pages to reinterpret what they initially thought. Not many SF writers are capable of tackling such a big project so confidently. In this respect, Hamilton (*Fallen Dragon*) resembles a less cheery but very tech-savvy—and extremely paranoid—Charles Dickens. Given the abrupt cliffhanger of an ending, some may prefer to save this massive installment until the story's conclusion, *Judas Unleashed*, appears next year. Anyone who begins this one, however, probably won't be able to put it down.

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From [Booklist](#)

Hamilton creates a dense, thoroughly defined twenty-fourth-century world, in which humanity has colonized the stars, thanks to the discovery of wormhole travel, and established a successful commonwealth. The species has even encountered aliens and space-faring artifacts. One remaining mystery is the barrier around stars known as the Dyson Pair. Human curiosity still being what it is, a spaceship capable of faster-than-light travel (thanks to those wormholes again) goes to investigate. When what's behind the barrier is discovered, the thrill-ride really starts. Aliens formerly trapped inside it, fighting over limited resources, are freed to invade human space. Unfortunately, that is more or less where this book leaves us, but a sequel is in the works. Hamilton's attention to character development makes the slow buildup to a dizzyingly destructive denouement rewarding, and all the little subplots and threads one hopes will be tied back to the main thread keep it complex and engaging. Hamilton is never simple, and even his aliens are well written, complex creations with their own motivations. *Regina Schroeder*

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Review

" The depth and clarity of the future Hamilton envisions is as complex and involving as they come." -- "Publishers Weekly" (starred review) " The author's expansive vision of the future combines action and intrigue on a panoramic scale." -- "Library Journal" " Astounding . . . Thrilling . . . Hamilton uses technology to excellent effect." -- "Science Fiction Age" " Shows how thought-provoking yet entertaining science fiction can be. Some of the best fiction . . . in years." -- "Midwest Book Review" " [Hamilton is] taking on one of sf's (and maybe all of literature's) primal jobs: the creation of a world with the scale and complexity of the real one." -- "Locus" " [Hamilton is] a rare talent." -- "The Denver Post" "From the Hardcover edition."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mary Olive:

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